

Vantage

(an Eastern States publication combining program and employee information)



Mustangs Adopted Through Cyberspace

By Karen Malloy, Program Specialist (WH&B) and
Joy Pasquariello, Volunteer Coordinator, Eastern States

Eastern States started the new millennium in a big way by placing all 35 mustangs offered through the sixth live cyberspace wild horse adoption. Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon said, "I am delighted that these 35 horses will be placed into loving homes."

Over 288 applications flooded the BLM computer email boxes during the 3-week window for applications and bidding, and 133 applicants were approved and issued bidder numbers. Applications came from all parts of the country—from New York, Florida, and even California.

The adoption offered a wide variety of exceptional wild horses such as pintos, buckskins, Kigers, halter and saddle-trained horses, and horses gathered from Nevada, where over one million acres of land were charred by wild fires last summer, critically reducing the forage for wild horses.

Wild Horse and Burro Specialist Steve Bauman, from the BLM's Salem, Oregon office spent 2 weeks at Eastern States Office helping screen the applications. The Jackson and Milwaukee Field Office WH&B staffs screened the majority of the applications received from adopters in their jurisdiction.

Continued on page 3



Internet horses await pickup by their new owners in Cross Plains, Tennessee. A variety of horses were offered online for the January 2000 Internet adoption.

Inside this issue

| | |
|--|----|
| SD's Message | 2 |
| GLO Web Site Expands | 3 |
| Build It, and They Will Come | 4 |
| Piney Woods Students | 4 |
| Environmental Education Workshop | 5 |
| GLO Update | 5 |
| Ms. Frizzle and the "Magic School Bus" | 6 |
| "Energy" in a Writing Workshop | 7 |
| Upcoming Events | 7 |
| Wild Horse Workshop | 8 |
| Black History Month | 9 |
| Kopach Graduates | 10 |
| ES Happenings | 11 |
| Employee Scene | 11 |
| On the Lighter Side | 12 |



State Director's Message

Since the year began, we have been busy working on a variety of projects, including public meetings in Pt. Betsie, Michigan and Marshall, Arkansas, projects for land conservation, expanding the General Land Office Internet Web Site, environmental education, and planning for Eastern States' 20th Anniversary celebration, marking our becoming a State Office.

I would like to give you an update on our projects and what to expect in the future:

Our public meetings were highly successful. We initiated a meeting and lighthouse tour for the Pt. Betsie, Michigan Lighthouse on February 12, 2000, to provide the local community and those interested in the lighthouse an opportunity to become familiar with the BLM's process for transferring these properties. We also wanted to provide them with lead time to develop partnerships and get organized to potentially assume long-term management. The meeting was successful in generating responses from 5 non-profit organizations, 2 local governments and a host of other interested organizations, agencies, legislative representatives and the general public, with a total attendance of approximately 35 people. The meeting also generated a heightened interest in the lighthouse as evidenced by the media articles in the local paper and picked up by the Associated Press, an interview with Michigan Public Radio, and the offers we've had from private entities to purchase the property. We also held a public meeting in Marshall, Arkansas on February 24, on the planning analysis being prepared for 12 tracts of public land in Arkansas. These tracts range from 5 to 160 acres in size and total 535 acres. Sixty-two people attended the meeting. Some were in favor of keeping the tracts in public ownership, while others would prefer that BLM offer the tracts for sale.

We held a public meeting on April 12, for the Lorton-Meadowood Farm land exchange. This potential acquisition, of about 900 acres on Virginia's Mason Neck, would result from an exchange for some land from the General Services Administration at the former Lorton Correctional Complex. At the public meeting we heard ideas from the public about the proposed exchange and the impact it could have on the people and resources of the Lorton/Mason Neck area. We also heard what the public thinks of our plan to provide open space for recreation, environmental education, and wild horse and burro interpretation.

Progress continues with the proposed Fiscal Year 2001 Potomac River Project area—a lightly populated area in southern Maryland. Southern Maryland is the fastest growing area in the State, and we are working with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to keep these lands from urbanization and protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed and associated habitat. We are verifying the area's resource values to determine the appropriate mix of access, recreation, and resource conservation if this area comes under public management.

The General Land Office (GLO) Web site has been expanded, and now offers information on historic land patents from all 30 public land states (those not included in the original 13 Colonies), east and west. These records literally tell the story of the settlement of the West. Recently, the GLO team has been automating the "serialized" patents and additional images are added daily. The GLO database has 4.5 million records which can be searched, with 2.1 million images attached to these database records and available for viewing. To date, the GLO Web site has received 59 million page hits, and we have done business with 1.5 million customers through the Web site.

Another important program for Eastern States is environmental education. This month we will kick off the Wonderful Outdoor World outdoor camping season which began in mid-April. Young campers from Washington, D.C.'s inner-city will have an opportunity to learn the importance of appreciating our public lands and natural resources. This project, part of a national program, is carried out with partners including the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, DC Department of Recreation and Parks, DC Department of Public Works, American Recreation Coalition, Chesapeake Bay Program, Environmental Protection Agency, DC Environmental Health Administration, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, North Lincoln Park Community Association, Student Conservation Association, Big Brothers/Big Sisters National Capitol Region, Anacostia/Congress Heights Partnership, and Earth Conservation Corps, just to name a few!

Finally, the employees of Eastern States have been busily planning the 20th Anniversary celebration of Eastern States becoming a State Office, to be held on May 4. We are trying to locate former Eastern States' employees to invite, and we will be recognizing our major accomplishments of Eastern States over the years and the unique role we play within BLM. We are looking forward to a nice event, filled with fun, good times, memories to be shared, and new memories to be made.


Eastern States Expands GLO Internet Web Site

By Cathy Rodine, Public Affairs Specialist, Eastern States

“Westward, Ho!” You might have heard those words many times if you were among the hardy pioneers who left the Colonies to seek a new life on the fertile lands of the Northwest Territory. You can still hear those words today, electronically speaking, in the Springfield, Virginia office of BLM, which is responsible for the historic General Land Office (GLO) records that literally tell the story of the settlement of the West. The BLM’s expanded Web site now offers information on historic land patents from all thirty public land states (those not included in the original 13 Colonies), east and west.

Patent images and data for 12 eastern public lands states have been online for about 2 years. Recently, Jim Gegen, BLM’s Eastern States GLO Project Leader, and his GLO team have been automating the “serialized” patents—those post-1908 conveyances issued chronologically from the headquarters General Land Office/BLM in Washington, D.C. The data and images for about 160,000 serialized patents are now online. Over the next 3 years, additional serialized patents will be added.

The new Web site also includes indexes to patents issued prior to 1908 from most Western States. A special feature of the new site allows you to query the GLO database by name, whether the name belongs to the patentee, warrantee, assignee, or heir. Also, the image display capabilities have been explained, permitting the user to choose among TIFF, GIF, and PDF file formats.

BLM is the successor agency to the GLO and has responsibility for the Secretary of the Interior’s copies of documents that transferred ownership of land from the Federal Government to private citizens. Genealogists have found these documents to be a valuable research tool to verify lineage or to place an ancestor in a specific place and time period. Title companies also use the information to ensure clear land titles. The BLM has computerized millions of these Federal land records and has made the data easily accessible on the Internet in a user-friendly, name-searchable format at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov> 




Internet adoption...continued from page 1

Bidding continued until the very last moment of the adoption. Winning bids ranged from \$185 for a 2-year old sorrel stud to several thousand dollars for rare Kiger mustang mares and some saddle-broke mustangs trained through the Colorado Department of Correction’s Wild Horse Inmate Program in Canon City, Colorado.

The total bids topped \$38,000 and the average bid was almost \$1,100. Highest bid horses were a 7-year old Kiger mare that went for \$3,990 and a black 3-year old, saddle-trained gelding that sold for \$3,800. The successful highest bidders live

in 14 Eastern States and 4 Western States. Eastern adopters were given the option of picking up their animals at Cross Plains, Tennessee, on February 18-19, or at the Lexington, Virginia satellite adoption on March 9.

Another internet adoption began on April 12, and offered 9 saddle broke horses from Wyoming, 20 halter-broke horses from Colorado, and 10 burros from Arizona. Bidding began on April 19 and will end May 3. Photos are on-line at the Web site <http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov> 

Build It, and They Will Come!!



Photo provided by Palm Beach County, Florida

Look closely and you can see two manatee feeding along the shore of the newly-created Jupiter wetland shelf (see circle in the center of the photo). This 86-acre public land tract was the recent site of a major rehabilitation and partnership with the aid of many of our partners. The aerial photo was taken on a cool day in February 2000, less than 2 months after the project was completed.

Piney Woods Students Learn About GIS and Remote Sensing

By Lars Johnson, Geologist, Jackson Field Office



Photo by Bob Schoolar

Piney Woods students receive hands-on GIS computer training using geographic-related software at USM's Geography Department's computer lab.

Thirteen students from Piney Woods School travelled to the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in February to learn about the career opportunities in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The students, accompanied by Jackson Field Office GIS Specialist Bob Schoolar and Geologist Lars Johnson, visited the USM's Geography Department's GIS and Remote Sensing Lab and received a 2-hour, hands-on learning experience from professors Dr. Don Williams, Dr. Mike Harrison, and Department Head Dr. Robert Wales.

The USM has a very well respected Geography Department that offers degrees in three different geography disciplines, one of which is GIS Technology. 🐼

Eastern States Participates in Environmental Education Workshop

By Marcella Davis, Environmental Education Program Specialist, Eastern States

Early March, Charles Bush, Program Advisor for Eastern States' Environmental Education Outreach Program and Marcella Davis, Environmental Education Program Specialist, participated in the Greater Washington Urban League's (GWUL) Regional Environmental Education Reform Workshop in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

The theme for the week-long workshop was "Networking and Partnerships: Building Blocks for Environmental Diversity and Capacity Creation in the New Millennium."

This environmental education initiative is part of GWUL's effort to educate, encourage, increase awareness and involve constituents in finding local solutions to local issues while increasing participation at the grass roots level.

As a partner in the DC Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) Program, BLM-Eastern States presented the WOW concept to the participants. Charles Bush, who is the Interim Executive President for the DC WOW Chapter, discussed the history of WOW and the forming of the DC



Charles Bush and Marcella Davis receive plaques of appreciation for participation at the Greater Washington Urban League's Environmental Education and Education Reform 5-day Workshop, from Ms. Hyder H. Houston, Director, Office of Environmental Programs and Diversity, GWUL.

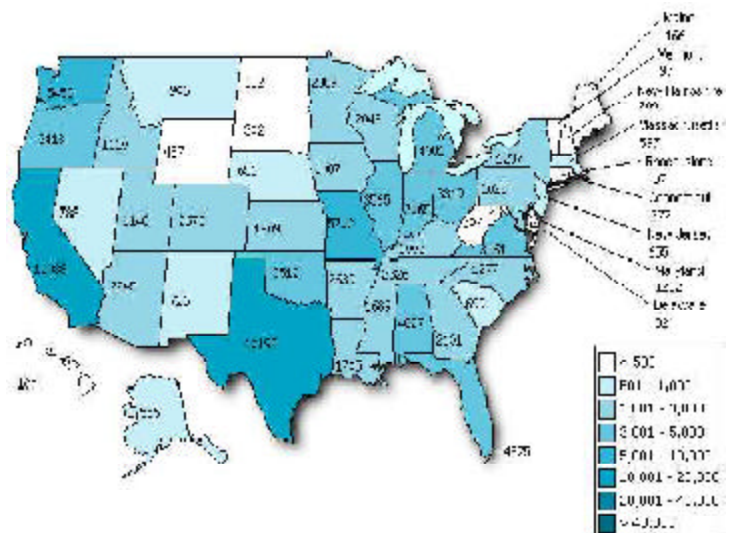
Chapter, which includes Federal, State, local, private and community organizations. He also shared with the audience the importance of camping as an instructional methodology in teaching youngsters to appreciate our public lands and natural resources. Marcella Davis discussed recruitment qualifications for WOW counselors and volunteers. 🐾

GLO Update

By Lamar McCowan, Systems Administrator,
General Land Office, Eastern States

The General Land Office Web site continues its wave of success for large volumes of Internet users accessing the site—from genealogists to title companies to the general public on the street who use the site and offer compliments or just say "thank you."

Visitor logins, as of March 20, 2000, are shown on the map by State. Visit the GLOARP WebSite Logons By State page at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/SiteUsage/statelogan.asp> for daily updates. 🐾



“Magic School Bus—Inside the Earth” Travels Back to Betty Brinn Children’s Museum

By Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office

The “Magic School Bus” has returned to the Betty Brinn Children’s Museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Museum, America’s Outdoors (AO) has been provided an opportunity to work together on issues of common interest in the area of environmental education.

With help from AO, “Magic School Bus—Inside the Earth’s” Ms. Frizzle (aka Lucille Tamm, Milwaukee Field Office Geologist) brings her message to children about geology in a fun, hands-on way. She provides a live presence inside the “Magic School Bus” classroom area where she encourages visitors to examine samples of sand from around the world through a binocular microscope. Samples of a New England Beach, the deep Gulf of Mexico, a Florida Beach, a Hawaiian tidal pool, and the Norway Greenland shelf introduce to visitors how varied and distinctive sand can be. Ms. Frizzle has also provided an interesting suite of volcanic rocks ranging from rhyolite and scoria from Nevada, granites from Wisconsin, a dramatic volcanic bomb from Colorado and basalt from New Jersey from her personal collection to supplement the igneous portion of the exhibit. She also distributes the AO’s brochure and the Outdoors America map, which provide an overview of AO and information on recreation opportunities on Federal lands.

In addition to being in her own classroom within the exhibit, Ms. Frizzle provides several detailed workshops for classes on how we use rocks, focusing on all the ways materials from the earth contribute to our lives, from the abstract beauty of a crystal to the hard cold considerations of money (copper, nickel, and silver). Hand samples of ores, petroleum reservoir rocks, oil shale, crystals, building stones and products provide a hands-on experience to enhance the discussions.

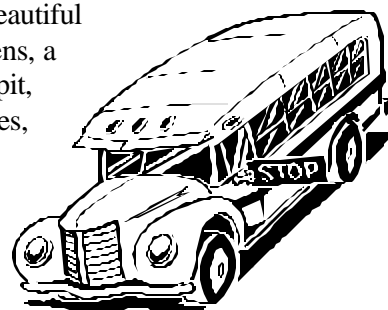


Photo by Martha Malik

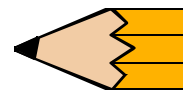
MFO Geologist Lucille Tamm, known as Ms. Frizzle, instructs a youngster how to look at sample of sand from around the world through a binocular microscope during a “Magic School Bus—Inside the Earth” exhibit during one of Ms. Frizzle’s appearances at the Museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Betty Brinn Children’s Museum focuses on children ranging from toddlers to early elementary grades, but many visitors include their parents and grandparents as well. Several school groups and family trips have been planned around Ms. Frizzle’s schedule at the Museum. From February 1-8, a total of 3,227 people visited Ms. Frizzle’s “Magic School Bus” classroom.

The “Magic School Bus” exhibit was created by a consortium of Children and Science Museums around the country, with major support from scholastic and corporate sponsors. The exhibit features hands-on exploration and discovery of rocks, minerals, and fossils, with a Japanese garden, a galley of beautiful carvings and specimens, a mine, an excavating pit, sediment settling tubes, and of course, the “Magic School Bus” itself as it emerges from a room-sized volcano.



Putting "Energy" in a Writing Workshop



By Lucille Tamm, Geologist, Milwaukee Field Office

In mid February, Lucille Tamm participated in Project Learning Tree's focus group on Energy Education called "Energy in Society Writing Workshop" in Madison, Wisconsin. This workshop was the third in a series of workshops to design a set of curriculum supplements for the study of energy in the kindergarten to high school levels and for teachers training in colleges.

There were 26 participants at the workshop, from regional nature centers, state and local governments, utilities, oil and gas companies, universities and local school districts. The objective of the meeting was to build on the work done by the previous two workshops by consolidating their findings and starting to add clarification and possible activities for an Energy and Society module in Project Learning Tree materials. The results of this workshop will be taken to the next workshop where the ideas will be further discussed and additional activities designed. This process will be reiterated with constant progress toward the goal of

a series of class activities which will supplement the academic curriculum.

The day was very productive and the workshop contributed significantly in forwarding the project. The structure of the process allows participation with minimal commitments of time and resources. By having each workshop build on and consolidate the results of previous workshops, an enormous number of experts review and design the materials collaboratively.

There is a Project Learning Tree coordinator in each State who coordinates participation in both the development of materials and in teacher workshops and training. An overview of the Project Learning Tree can be found at the Web site <http://www.ptl.org>

This is a cost effective and productive way to increase the quality of environmental education materials available for elementary and secondary school-age students. 🐾

Upcoming Events

| | |
|------------------|---|
| April 26-28 | County Conservation Fairs (Choctaw, Webster, Montgomery, and Bolivar Counties, Mississippi) |
| April 29 | Milwaukee Earth Day 2000 Network Environmental Fair, Milwaukee, Wisconsin |
| April 29-30 | Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Edinburgh, Indiana |
| May 4 | Eastern States 20th Anniversary Celebration, Springfield, Virginia |
| May 5 | Jackson Field Office Health Fair, Jackson, Mississippi |
| May 5-6 | Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Columbia, South Carolina |
| May 6-7 | Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Bloomington, Illinois |
| May 9 | DC Urban Treehouse Earth Day, Anacostia Park, Washington, D.C. |
| May 20 | Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Rutland, Vermont |
| May 20-21 | Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Cross Plains, Tennessee |
| May 26-27 | Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Northport, Alabama |
| June 17 | Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Equitanna, Kentucky (Special Event) |
| June 17-18 | Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Cross Plains, Tennessee |
| June 23-24 | Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Springdale, Arkansas |
| June 23-24 | Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Jefferson, Wisconsin |
| June 30 - July 1 | Burro Adoption, Shelbyville, Tennessee |

Wild About a Horse Workshop in North Carolina

By Jinx Fox, Wild Horse & Burro Program Manager, Eastern States

Wild Horse and Burro enthusiasts, members of Least Resistance Training Concepts, Inc., and BLM Eastern States' Wild Horse and Burro specialists taught each other and 43 wild horses a great deal last November at the first Wild Horse Workshop ever held in the East. The Workshop, the second of its kind, drew participants from as far away as Canada and the Western United States to Asheville, North Carolina to work with clinicians and wild horses to acquire hands-on experience with effective gentling techniques.

This unusual event started with an evening adoption of young wild horses for participants in the workshop. Many adopted an animal to work with throughout the week, while others worked with unadopted animals that would be offered for adoption at the end of the workshop. The clinicians came from different parts of the country; John Sharp of Prineville, Oregon, Frank Bell from Larkspur, Colorado, 1st Sgt. Mark Atwood of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, Ft. Riley, Kansas, and Robert Denlinger from Greenup, Kentucky. In addition to these clinicians, Coloradan Cheryl Eastep demonstrated clicker training techniques, and attendees were treated to demonstrations on correct hoof trimming for mustangs, freezebranding and other pertinent topics.

The BLM crew, comprised of wild horse specialists from Eastern States' Springfield, Jackson, and Milwaukee offices, were kept hopping, running the two adoptions, feeding and caring for the horses, setting up training pens, and loading and trailering each horse to and from the pens set up in an indoor arena at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center. Well over 100 trips were made with the horses without a mishap or injury to either horses or crew!

Training sessions started early and progressed non-stop throughout each day. During the training sessions, at least four pens had animals being worked at any given time. Other animals were held in holding pens and handled by their adopter when they were ready. Some yearlings progressed quickly through



Eastern States Wild Horse and Burro Specialists join Wild Horse Workshop '99 participants in Asheville, North Carolina for a group photo.

their lessons, while others were somewhat slower to gentle. By the end of the week, however, all horses that were worked with were used to being handled, haltered and led. Some were even loading and unloading into trailers, and by the end of the week, some were under saddle.

The next Wild Horse Workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held in Lakewood, Colorado October 30 to November 4, 2000. In addition to giving adopters a head start with their animals and teaching them a variety of effective gentling techniques and tools, a goal of the workshops is to assist in developing a corps of knowledgeable wild horse enthusiasts who will share their skills and expertise with new adopters. BLM is working with Least Resistance Training Concepts, Inc. and others to develop a mentor program to link adopters with qualified mentors who can assist them. To obtain further information on workshops or mentors, visit the Web site <http://www.blm.gov/whb/whshop99.html> 🐾

[The Eastern States' wild horse and burro specialists were saddened to hear of clinician Robert Denlinger's tragic loss of several very special horses in a freak flash flood this winter. We extend our sincere condolences to Robert.]

Black History Month Celebrated

State Office Celebrates Black History Month

By Shirlee Gilmore and Regina Berry, Land Law Examiners, Eastern States

Eastern States Annual Black History Celebration was held on February 24, and hosted by the Branch of Use Authorization. Mistress of Ceremony, Shirlee Gilmore, opened the program by introducing Branch Chief, Ida Doup, who gave the opening remarks, followed by some words from Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon and Associate State Director Gwen Mason.

Jackie Choudhury of the State Director's Office sang "Lord, Don't Move My Mountain," as the employees were being seated for the start of the program. Tony Mayfield of Administrative Services recited his original poem entitled, "I Love The Ladies," which was accompanied by music and proved to be very moving. Char Haningan of the State Director's Office recited a poem by Niki Giovanni entitled, "A Greater Love of God and Country."

Regina Berry then introduced special guest speaker Ms. Patricia Pope, a retiree of the General Service Administration, who worked there for 30 years, ending her career as an Equal Employment Officer.

Ms. Pope is currently employed with the Prince George's County, Maryland School System, and is an active board member with the Oxon Hill, Maryland Boys and Girls Club. Ms. Pope's greatest achievement has been to start a home for unwed teens. This home assists young women with how to be responsible parents and to finish their formal education.

Ms. Pope then gave an excellent speech on "How to Live After Retirement and How There is Life After Retirement." She concluded with an anonymous, inspirational poem.

As a special treat, Regina introduced Jerome Baxter, owner of The Triple Action Karate School, who gave a self-defense demonstration to the group. Several employees bravely volunteered to participate in the instruction.



Photo by Karen Ryan

(Left to right) Instructor teaches self-defense moves to the group as Char Hannigan, Patricia Pope, and Jose Gyurik follow along during instruction.

And as always at Eastern States, everyone enjoyed delicious soul food after the program. To add to the celebration, employees had an opportunity to play a Black History Trivia Contest. The lucky winner was Tony Mayfield, who took home the \$10 prize for correctly answering 7 of 10 Black History questions.

Judge Brings Black History to Jackson Field Office

By Cozette W. Archie, Program Assistant, Jackson Field Office

History is the branch of knowledge that records and analyzes past events; chronological, often explanatory or commentary records of events.

This is exactly what the Jackson Field Office experienced when it had the honor of inviting U.S. District Judge Henry T. Wingate, a prolific historian from the Southern District of Mississippi,

Continued on page 10

Black History Month...continued from page 9

as their guest speaker for its Ninth Annual Black History Program, held in February.

The theme, "Styles & Roles in the New Millennium," was brought to life through heightening awareness of numerous contributions which Blacks have made to American History.

Judge Wingate shared a trip to the North Pole with his captivated audience, where freezing cold temperatures and long distance was not a deterrent for Matthew Hanson, who in spite of the many obstacles, was the first man to set foot on the ground, thus discovering the North Pole; that Crispus Attucks was not the first Black man to be killed in the war; and that initially Blacks were brought to America as indentured servants, which later turned into slavery.

Judge Wingate further stated that even though Blacks have been left out of some of the written record about America, Black History Month attempts to

remedy this by providing ALL Americans with information regarding creative and empathetic understanding about Black Americans in the Nation.

We should all realize that History has an important place in our lives, and it is important that this information be passed on to our children. Kawanda Myles, a student at Wingfield High School, provided us with such an example, when she performed an exhilarating skit entitled, "A Tribute to Rosa Parks," that electrified the audience.

Following the program, a delicious soul food menu, consisting of collard greens, lima beans, black eyed peas, yams, pork chops, chicken & dumplings, and various delectable desserts, was enjoyed by the participants and audience.

A special thanks goes to members of the planning committee for the program—Jeanette McGrew, Victoria Craft and Cozette W. Archie. 🐦

Kopach Graduates from Team Leadership Program

By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, Eastern States

Cadastral Survey Deputy State Director Steve Kopach recently completed DOI's Team Leadership Program (TLP).

To fulfill the TLP, Steve served a 30-day developmental assignment as Associate State Director for BLM's Montana State Office, working on general management and personnel issues. He also served a 60-day assignment as a Special Project Leader for the Office of the Secretary in Washington, D.C., working on Indian Land Claim issues.

Steve's team topic was an examination of leadership based on the theories behind leadership, desirable skills and characteristics which most great leaders possess, and how they obtained or developed them.

The Program is administered by the DOI University and is a management development program open to DOI employees in grades GS-11 through

GS-14 and equivalent. Curriculum for the program emphasizes the areas of team leadership development, management of natural and cultural resources/ecosystems management, oral and written communication, problem-solving techniques, and current management issues.



Continued on page 12

BLM's Assistant Director, Minerals, Realty & Resource Protection and mentor Carson W. Culp, Jr. (left) congratulates Eastern States Deputy State Director for Cadastral Survey Steve Kopach for his recent completion of DOI's Team Leadership Program.

Photo by Joy Pasquariello

ES Happenings

Despite the bad weather in January, State Office employees donated 35 whole units of blood during a time when reserves were very low in the The Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region, the 3rd largest region in the United States, serving southern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Washington, D.C. April's Blood Drive was a great success, with 80 whole units of blood donated by the employees of BLM and U.S. Customs.

BLM Eastern States helped host the Eastern Lands and Resources Council/Western States Land Commissioners Association spring meeting, held in Washington, D.C. Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Sylvia Baca and BLM Acting Director Tom Fry addressed the group, comprised of the top elected and appointed State land managers from across the Nation. Other speakers included representatives from BLM, USF&WS, MMS, EPA, USDA-FS, House and Senate Resource Committee staff, conservation groups, and private industry.

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is proposing to relinquish approximately 25 acres associated with the Jupiter Lighthouse in northern Palm Beach County, Florida to BLM, Eastern States. Through successful efforts by Palm Beach County and the JFO to restore habitat for 18 special status species on the adjacent 86 acres relinquished in 1996, the USCG is moving quickly to propose relinquishment of the remaining unoccupied land. Included is a well-established fringe of red mangrove along the Indian River Lagoon, the only sand bluff along the 156-mile waterway, and habitat for gopher tortoise and Florida scrub jay. Major management issues on land potentially returned to BLM will be removal of exotic plant species and control of visitor access to the bluff. Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Services is expected to continue its role as our full partner in the management of this additional acreage.

Twenty-nine employees at the State Office participated in a "Plain English Workshop" in March. Pat Boyd, Regulatory Analyst for BLM's WO Regulations Office presented the group with plenty of writing skill information and some fun writing exercises at the session.

A Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale, was held at the State Office in Springfield, Virginia on March 23. Forty-two parcels of Federal land were offered in the States of Arkansas, Kentucky, and Mississippi. Twenty-seven parcels were sold at the sale, generating revenue totaling over \$64,515 from bonus bids, filing fees, and rentals. The highest per acre bid of the auction was in Mississippi: the bonus bid was \$325 per acre for 40 acres, totalling \$13,000.

In mid-July, the 8th JFO Environmental Education Camp will be held at the comfortable accommodations at Crows Neck Environmental Education Center in northeastern Mississippi. Activities will include hiking, canoeing, and night walks interspersed with resource training.

On April 29, the MFO will participate in Milwaukee Earth Day 2000 Network Environmental Fair to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Earth Day. The theme will be "Clean Environment." Activities at the event will include a clean up of several Milwaukee areas before the event, a children's parade in species (i.e., insect, reptile, animal) costumes, presentations by Wisconsin Environmental Leaders, various workshops, organization/agency booths, music, entertainment, food, drumming and meditation, and other childrens's activities.

Gwen Mason, Eastern States Associate State Director, will be leaving in May. We will miss her cheerful outlook on life, and we wish her and her family the very best.

Employee Scene

(January 1, 2000, to March 31, 2000)

Comings & Goings

New Employees -- Ruth Pracht, Secretary, Tammy Ball, Accounting Technician, and Gavin Brown, Student, Cadastral Survey, ES

Joan Tice, Management Assistant, MFO


Retiree -- Larry Johnson, Appraiser, MFO

Transfer -- Ronnye Mays to Securities & Exchange Commission



Kopach graduates...continued from page 10

The program consists of five 1-week seminars covering a variety of leadership topics, two developmental assignments to positions outside the trainee's normal duty station, development of a research project on a topic of interest and value to both the students and the Federal Government using a team approach, and a team presentation to DOI leaders covering the project.

Individuals interested in the next TLP 2000-2001 can read details at <http://www.doi.gov/hrm/> and <http://www.doi.gov/training/tpl.html> 

The BLM's Eastern States office is responsible for the stewardship of public lands and resources in the 31 States east of, and bordering on, the Mississippi River. Our office administers 30,000 surface acres of public lands and more than 39 million acres of subsurface Federal mineral estate.

Major programs include: Cadastral Survey, General Land Office Records, Wild Horse & Burro Adoptions, Energy & Minerals, and Communication.

For more information about our office, please contact us at (703) 440-1713, or visit our Web site at <http://www.es.blm.gov/> or our Kids site at http://www.es.blm.gov/kids_new/index.html

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Rediscover and Tread Lightly on your Public Lands



On the Lighter Side...

Five elements of outstanding service

Outstanding communication is at the heart of excellent customer service. According to Professor Leonard Berry of Texas A&M, the best customer service includes:

1. **Reliability.** Guarantee your services — then deliver on your promises.
2. **Responsiveness.** Offer to answer customer questions. When you can't answer immediately, offer to research or find someone who can help.
3. **Empathy.** Ask customers questions to better understand their needs.
4. **Assurance.** Speak with assurance to gain customer confidence. Use an even tone and moderate pace.
5. **Professional appearance.** When dealing with customers face to face, communicate competency through a neat, professional appearance. That goes for you and your surroundings.

Cited in *Communications Solutions* (April 2000)

Women's History Month —

"I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I lived just the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well." Diane Acherman (1948-)